

Message Text

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62

ACTION SCSE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (BALDRIDGE, JOHN WALTER)

SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:
JOHN WALTER BALDRIDGE

REF: STATE 194199

PROLONGED TRIAL DETENTION.

CONSULATE FILES INDICATE PRISONER HAS CONSISTENTLY CLAIMED LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW (DUNN'S) POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA IN PLANE AND DUNN'S PLANS TO CROSS INTO MEXICO FROM U.S. PRISONER'S LAWYER TOLD PRISONER (RE FILE JANUARY 28, 1975) HE COULD OBTAIN ABSUELTO (ABSOLVEMENT OF GUILT) IN TWO MONTHS. COMPLICATIONS OF THE CASE INVOLVING SIX OTHERS HAVE, ACCORDING TO LAWYER, SLOWED DOWN PROGRESS OF BALDRIDGE CASE. PRISONER WROTE CONOFF APRIL, MAY AND SEPTEMBER OF 1975 REQUESTING CONOFF CHECKS PROGRESS OF HIS CASE. EIGHT VISITS BY CONOFF TO JUDGE (LAST VISIT NOVEMBER 25) RESULTED IN ADVICE THAT CASE WOULD BE DECIDED IN COUPLE OF MONTHS EACH TIME. LAST ESTIMATED TIME FOR SENTENCING GIVEN BY JUDGE AS JANUARY 15, 1976. CONSULATE WIRENOTE SENT FROM MAZATLAN TO EMBASSY MEXICO OCTOBER 16, 1975 REGARDING BALDRIDGE (AND BROTHER-IN-LAW DUNN) TO NOTIFY EMBASSY OF DELAY OF OVER ONE YEAR DETENTION. CONSULATE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS ISSUE.

ALLEGATION OF MISTREATMENT/EXTORTION WHILE IN PRISON.

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PRISONER ALLEGED EXTORTION BY PRISONER'S COMMISSION FOR

VARIOUS SERVICES AND THREATS OF BEING ASSIGNED TO DIFFERENT
PART OF PRISON IF EXTORTION NOT PAID. DECEMBER 3, 1975
CONSUL HELD MEETING WITH MAYOR'S AID AND WARDEN AT WHICH TIME
WARDEN AGREED THAT PRISON COMMISSION WOULD BE CHANGED.
COMMISSION WAS CHANGED DECEMBER 12, 1975 TO INCLUDE ONE OF THE
AMERICAN PRISONERS ON THAT COMMISSION.
PRIETO

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